

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

JANUARY 2004 NEWSLETTER

Question for January meeting: Should our '04 Holiday Party be on a Friday or Thursday night?

Meeting December 19, 2003

Greetings and happy new year from your new secretary, Linnea Lamar. The December potluck dinner meeting was a true celebration of the bounty of the earth with many delectable foods such as gourmet cheeses, tamales, pecan pie, a double chocolate cake that was memorable (if not downright addicting), and of course, the fabulous turkey and ham. Rather than our traditional raffle for exotic plants, we had a gift exchange. The unusual presents, befitting our tendency toward the exotic, generally evoked extreme pleasure accompanied by a look of puzzlement and the words, "What is it?" For example, there were some decorative carved-wood plant hangers capable of supporting several clay pots. Also, one of our members received some beautiful pincers humorously speculated to be anything from instruments of torture to salad tongs. The only item of business was the group's approval of another term for the existing board members, with the exception of myself replacing Paul Phillips as the secretary.

As your new secretary, I'll tell you a little about my jungle, so that you may get to know me and my fruit tree obsession better. A couple of years ago I sold my lawn-mower and covered the lawn with landscaping paper and then mulch. A few months later, the grass had all but died and was ready to mix with the mulch. The result was my beloved jungle. True, with all its overgrown vines, mangy mulches, and forever "undead" Bermuda grass, this botanical chaos will probably not be selected for *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine anytime soon. But to me, an unseen order exists from having at least one of everything that will produce fruit all crammed together in a residential-sized yard.

If all my trees were ready for harvest today, my basket would be filled with cherimoyas, pumelos, star apples, lichis, pineapple and other quavas, Madagascar chestnuts, dates, rose apples, loquats, passion fruits, sapotes, kiwis and some of the usual stuff such as figs, oranges, mandarins, lemons, berries, and I can't remember what else. I'm hoping to add a Che tree, which I found out about through the club, and some deciduous trees this year and maybe some grapes. When I started coming to the meetings and listening to the rest of

you talk with such great enthusiasm about your own backyard paradises, I knew I was in the right place. I look forward to being of service and meeting you all in 2004.

Linnea Lamar

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Hello friends. I'm very happy to be able to serve you as chapter chair for another year. I'm also very happy to have the same reliable people on board to serve in their positions as well. Except for Paul Phillips of course. He has been reliable but I'm glad that he doesn't have to be in the coming year. He can finally take it easy and let someone else take a turn serving the chapter. Special thanks and welcome to Linnea Lamar who took over from him as Secretary.

Well, I guess that I have visions of Pomegranates dancing in my head again. There was just a great article on them in the San Francisco Chronicle. Check it out at <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2003/12/06/HOGNG3FJ6V1.DTL> . Or just go to <http://www.sfgate.com> , and search the archives for pomegranate. The article appeared on 12/6/03. It offers a very interesting perspective on the pomegranate tasting that was held up at the USDA Germplasm Repository's Wolfskill experimental orchard in winters, CA in October. And it made a very big impact on the bay area fruit gardening community; or it tapped into a rising interest in Pomegranates that is already there. In a normal year, the Repository processes about 270 requests for material in total for all of the 209 species in their collection. This year, they got 330 requests for Pomegranates alone. The requests included a request from the Dave Wilson Nursery for five hundred cuttings of each of several varieties that impressed them, including my own beloved Pink Ice. The Repository turned them down, giving them just three cuttings of each, the same as any private requestor would get. Our CRFG chapters are getting as many as three dozen cuttings of some varieties, because we plan to distribute them widely and submit data back.

That brings me to my last point. The USDA's program sends these cuttings out at no cost to the recipients. But they are not free. We are expected to grow material out to expand and decentralize it in order to better assure its survival. The other purpose is to add to the data on each type. I thank the people who reported back to me on the performance of last year's material, or just to say that they never planted it. It is all good data. But a lot of material went out and I only heard back on a small percentage of it. Therefore, this year we will handle the Germplasm Repository material a little bit differently.

This year we will ask that people fill out a form (or piece of paper) with their contact information, the DPUN numbers of what they want, and their sunset zone or other climate information in order to get the material. The "best case" list of what we will have available is attached to this newsletter. At the meeting, we will allow members first access to all scion material. In general we should all take no more than one or two of any

offering at the exchange on the first pass. We can take more later, after everyone, public included, has had a shot at things. With the Pomegranate material, you will only get one stick of each variety on the first pass, and be limited to five varieties. That means five sticks maximum on the first pass. We won't be rigid of course with our members, if you really honestly are going to grow the stuff out, you can get a stick of everything. Later on in the exchange you can come back for up to two more sticks of each variety you chose. I know that this sounds a little bit restrictive, but I really want to get some data on this stuff to advance the state of knowledge on this fruit. I also feel that it pays for us to maintain the good relationship with the Germplasm Repository that CRFG established a long time ago. It is good for us to justify the preferential treatment that CRFG gets in the germplasm distribution process. SEE YOU AT THE SCION EXCHANGE!

David Silverstein

Bring your scions.

- Make your cuttings as near to the date of the meeting as possible.
- Come in early to help us properly place your cuttings on the table.
- Cuttings should be about the size (6") and width (1/8 to 3/4 inch) of a pencil.
- Do not allow your cuttings to dry out, store them in damp paper towels (or newspaper) in plastic bags in the refrigerator.
- Properly label each of your bundled cuttings.
- Make sure your cuttings are not from an infected source.
- Do a slanted cut at the top of your scions; this will point "up" in the growth direction.
- Do a straight cut at the bottom of your scions.
- Bring plastic bags, masking tape and a permanent marker to identify the scion you select.
- Also, bring a notebook to take notes as our hosts explain each cutting.
- If you bring something unusual, please make a note if it has to be grafted or just 'stick'em in the ground.'
- Bring as many different cuttings as you can.
- And have lots of fun!!

Festival of Fruit Annual FESTIVAL OF FRUIT will be held on June 18, 19 and 20, 2004 at Cal Poly Pomona in the new Student Bronco Center. Cal Poly is one of the best agricultural schools in California. The Web address for the event: <http://www.crfg.org/fof/2004Introduction.htm> Or, just enter crfg in any search engine and follow the leads. Make your plans and reservations now.

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Don't forget to check our website at www.cfrgsandiego.org.

January Meeting:

WHERE: Casa del Prado Building Room 101, Balboa Park

WHEN: January 22 at 7 pm

MEETING TOPIC: Scion Exchange

For membership, please mail your application form and check to

CRFG, San Diego Chapter

C/O Paul Fisher
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San Diego CRFG Newsletter

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San Diego Chapter 2004 Calendar

Year of the Berry

Month	Meeting Topic	Event(s) For the Month
December 19, 2003	Annual Dinner /Elections	None
January 22, 2004		
Casa del Prado 101	Annual Scion and Cutting Exchange.	Orange County Chapter Scion Exchange Trip. JANUARY 31.
February 26		
Casa del Prado104	Propagating desirable fruit tree varieties by Grafting and Budding	Workshop. Individual instruction in Grafting and Budding methods. FEB 28. 10 dollar fee for non-members. Call or e-mail for more information.
March 25		
Casa del Prado 101	Propagating by air layering etc.	Workshop. Individual instruction in Air Layering etc. 10 dollar fee for non-members.

		March 27, 2003 Call or e-mail for more information.
April 22		
Casa del Prado 104	TBA	Green Scene, Fullerton Arboretum. Date TBA
May 27		
Casa del Prado 101	TBA	Tentative Pikake Garden Tour. Date TBA.
June 24		
Casa del Prado 101	TBA	Festival of Fruit. June 18, 19, 20, 2004, Cal Poly Pomona, Los Angeles
July 22		
Casa del Prado 101	TBA	
August 26		
Casa del Prado 101	TBA	
September 23		
Casa del Prado 104	TBA	ANNUAL FRUIT TREE SALE. SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2004. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. 9:00 a.m. until it's over.
October 28		
Casa del Prado 101	TBA	
November 18		
Casa del Prado 103	TBA	

Pomegranate list from UC Davis

- 1) **PARFIANKA**, PI 594964, DPUN 15, An excellent tasting sweet/tart variety somewhat reminiscent of Wonderful because of its deep color and flavor. But it has the advantage of small soft seeds, making it much more pleasant to eat. Collected. Date: 08-Sep-1995. From: Turkmenistan. Experimental Station of Plant Genetic Resources, Garrygala "Parfianka" may be corruption of Russian "Perseyanka" "Persian Woman (or Girl)".
- 2) **GREEN GLOBE**, PI 599115, DPUN 052 Fruits large, up to 840 g., close to two pounds, green, sweet, hang down like a chandelier, mature from September to November, later will split. Kernels large. Developed by John Chater.
- 3) **SWEET** PI 599510, DPUN 020 Tree ornamental, precocious, productive. Fruit color lighter than Wonderful, slightly greenish with red flush when ripe. Flesh

pink, sweet, excellent in fruit punch.

- 4) FLESHMAN PI 599513 DPUN 028 Tree, vigorous, productive. Fruit large, diameter 7-10 cm, roundish, pink. Flesh pink, very sweet. Seeds relatively soft. Matures September. Selected and named by Paul H. Thomson in Fallbrook, San Diego County, CA. Introduced in 1970 and discovered in the 1950's.
- 5) PINK ICE PI 599518, DPUN 082 Excellent very soft seeded, medium sized, attractive pink fruit with pink arils and a sweet fruity taste. It was a favorite in our taste tests here in San Diego. Has favorable mention in CRFG publication going back to at least 1988. Tree seems productive. Origin currently unknown.
- 6) PI 599519 DPUN 083 (no name) Similar to Pink Ice but slightly harder seed, slightly less sweet. Fruit greenish-yellow with pink blush, Arils smaller, pink.
- 7) Agat DPUN 105 Soft-seeded, excellent sweet and sharp taste. From Tadjhikistan; Village: Dushanbe; Russian name means "Agate".
- 8) Gissarskii Alyi, DPUN 106 Soft-seeded, excellent sweet and sharp taste. From From Tadjhikistan; Village: Dushanbe. Name translates from Russian as "Hussar Crimson (or Hot Red)". This bright color recalls the Hussar style military uniform worn by Russian soldiers until the early 20th century. This is the uniform seen on classic toy soldiers and the Nutcracker of the popular Tchaikovsky musical piece of that name. The Russian word would more accurately be rendered "Gussarski".
- 9) Medovyi Vahsha, DPUN 109 Soft-seeded, early, sweet. Term "Medovyi" means "Honey"
- 10) Podarok, DPUN 110 Soft-seeded, excellent sweet and sharp taste. District: Tadjhikistan; Village: Dushanbe. "Gift"
- 11) Shainakskii, DPUN 111 Soft-seeded, excellent sweet and sharp taste. Tadjhikistan; Village: Dushanbe
- 12) 1/25 Rannii. DPUN 112 Soft-seeded, early, sweet. Tadjhikistan; Village: Kolhozabad. "Early"
- 13) 31/69 DPUN 114 Soft-seeded, excellent sweet and sharp taste. Tadjhikistan; Village: Dushanbe
- 14) 32/30 DPUN 115 Soft-seeded, excellent sweet and sharp taste. Tadjhikistan; Village: Dushanbe
- 15) Dorosht 5 Hahanshahi Khorramab, PI 483099, DPUN 78 Large fruited type. Name Hahanshahi, means belongs to the king. From Iran.